

Remarks at a United States-Vietnamese Business Forum Reception in
Ho Chi Minh City
November 19, 2000

Thank you very much. First, thank you for your warm welcome, Mr. Chairman. And let me thank all the members of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council, U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, and the American Chamber of Commerce for bringing us all together today.

I am honored to be here with distinguished Members of the United States Congress and my Cabinet and administration and American business leaders who are interested in Vietnam.

I hope this trip has helped the American people to see Vietnam in a new way and has encouraged the people of Vietnam to see America in a new way, so that we will have a partnership for the future.

One important element of that partnership is our bilateral trade agreement, and I want to thank all of you here for your efforts to bring it about. There are so many Americans who want to play a positive role in Vietnam's future, including one million Americans of Vietnamese heritage.

There are also a lot of American business people who came here many years ago, during the conflict—people like Jim Kimsey, who is on my trip here—who have done very well in

the high-tech economy and other areas, who would like to give back to Vietnam and do something positive to build a better future.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the work that you have done here in Ho Chi Minh City to promote private economic growth and to encourage others to be partners with you in the future. And I hope that all of us will be able to celebrate that kind of future because of your leadership and the policies of the Government of Vietnam and the willingness of the people of Vietnam to support this new direction.

Again, let me thank all of you for making my family and my delegation feel so welcome in Vietnam. I thank you for your vision for this young and dynamic country, and I am going home determined to continue the partnership we have for a better future for the people of Vietnam, the people of the United States, and all those whom we can reach together.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:53 p.m. at city hall. In his remarks, he referred to Vo Viet Thanh, chairman, Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee; and James V. Kimsey, founder, America OnLine.

Statement on the Appointment of Donna Shalala as President of the
University of Miami
November 19, 2000

I congratulate Secretary Shalala on her appointment as president of the University of Miami, a post she will assume on June 1. She is a talented manager and an energetic leader who will bring great experience to the task of leading the university, its students, its faculty, and its alumni. I have no doubt she will be a real asset to the university and its community.

For almost 8 years, Secretary Shalala has led the Department of Health and Human Services with vigor and skill, always focused on meeting the needs of the American people. During her tenure as the longest serving Secretary in the

history of the Department, she has directed the welfare reform process; made health insurance available to 2.5 million children through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); raised immunization rates to the highest levels in history; and led major reforms of FDA's drug approval process and food safety system.

As a Medicare trustee, she helped extend the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund, directing management reforms and launching a campaign against waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs that has already paid